**Informative Research Product Organizer**

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| Research Topic:  Child Abuse |

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| Focusing Statement:  The Psychological Effects of Child Abuse |

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| Essential Background Information for Introduction:  Child abuse is harm or neglect to another child by a parent or caretaker. There are four major categories of abuse; physical, neglect, emotional and sexual. Did you know that 90% of sexual abuse victims know their perpetrator in some way and 68% are abused by family members or maybe that about 30% of abused and neglected children will later abuse their own children? In some cases by the time a child abuse survivor turns 21 they meet the criteria for at least one psychological disorder. Neglect is the most common form of abuse, then physical, sexual and emotional follow in that order. |

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| Potential Hook/Grabber (Story, anecdote, quote about your issue):  “Child abuse is something that’s not talked about. It’s the dirty little secret. There is the immediate damage that it does down the road. It’s the baggage that you carry. It’s not here and today, it’s tomorrow” – Melody Strong |

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| Topic 1:  Psychological effects of sexual abuse | |
| Explanation  Fear, anxiety, always on guard:  Researchers have found that survivors of sexual abuse are 5 times more likely to be diagnosed with an anxiety disorder. They always feel the need to be on guard against possible danger because of the trauma they’ve experienced. | <http://www.dcrcc.org/support_counseling/adult_survivors_of_child_sexual_abuse/C121/emotional_effects1/> |
| Explanation  Self-harm, addictive, suicidal behaviors:  Many survivors often try to find strategies to cope with or avoid the feelings, pain or memories associated with the abuse. They often will self harm in some way such as cutting or burning. They may also develop eating disorders such as bulimia, anorexia or over-eating to comfort themselves. One more common result of sexual abuse is sexual problems such as sexual dysfunction which is not having the desire to have sex or promiscuity which is engaging in risky sexual behaviors. | Evidence/Quotes:  <http://www.dcrcc.org/support_counseling/adult_survivors_of_child_sexual_abuse/C121/emotional_effects1/> |
| Explanation  Anger, depression:  Some adult survivors will feel anger toward themselves for not being able to stop the abuse, angry with the abuser for what they did to them, or angry with a parent or caretaker for not protecting them. Depression is the most common reported symptom of abuse. | Evidence /Quotes:  <http://www.dcrcc.org/support_counseling/adult_survivors_of_child_sexual_abuse/C121/emotional_effects1/> |

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| Topic 2:  Psychological effects of physical abuse | |
| Explanation  Problems with social relationships:  When survivor of physical abuse gets older they may not be distrusting of others, handle interpersonal problems with forms of aggression, or have poor social skills. They may also struggle to form good friendships | Evidence/Quotes:  <http://www.secasa.com.au/index.php/family/11/95/5> |
| Explanation  Emotional Impact:  Some emotional problems a physically abused child may face are difficulty in school, self-control and self-image. They may experience feelings of low self esteem or may be depressed, overactive or highly anxious. More emotional problems include fear and humiliation. | Evidence/Quotes:  <http://www.healthyplace.com/abuse/child-physical-abuse/how-does-physical-abuse-impact-a-child/menu-id-52/> |
| Explanation  Behavioral Problems:  Children who were physically abused will often exhibit behavioral problems such as aggression towards peers or other siblings, hostility or inability to express their feelings. | Evidence /Quotes:  <http://www.healthyplace.com/abuse/child-physical-abuse/how-does-physical-abuse-impact-a-child/menu-id-52/> |

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| Topic 3:  Psychological effects of neglect | |
| Explanation  Insecure attachments:  Studies have shown that children who have experienced neglect are more likely to be mistrustful of others, lack empathy or remorse, lack confidence that could keep them from being successful in school, work or relationships. Children who have been neglected may have issues understanding others emotions or even their own. | Evidence/Quotes:  <http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/neglect/chapterthree.cfm> |
| Explanation  Why adults neglect:  Some adults neglect because they may have experienced neglect or abuse themselves. Some other parental factors for abuse may be from the parent having low self-esteem, poor impulse control or may be experiencing depression. Often the parent does not have age- appropriate expectations for the child. They may not understand what a child at each age is capable of. Some parents often let their own needs come before the child’s needs. | Evidence/Quotes:  <http://www.minddisorders.com/Kau-Nu/Neglect.html> |
| Explanation  Emotional and behavioral problems:  When a child has been neglected they may act socially or emotionally inappropriate for their age, have different mental health issues such as ADHD,PTSD or a variety of different panic or dissociative disorders. They may also suffer from anxiety or depressive disorders. These may stick with the child throughout their life but not all people are affected. Some people are able to be resilient. | Evidence /Quotes: |

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| Topic 4:  Psychological effects of emotional abuse | |
| Explanation  What emotional abuse is:  Emotional abuse and psychological abuse are very similar. This type of abuse is prevalent when a spouse in the relationship ignores the thoughts, preferences and needs of the other spouse. The other spouse is often made to feel less important in the relationship. Sometimes to keep the other spouse captive the abuser resorts to telling complimenting the victim or ensuring they feel special with overly generous attention. This lasts long enough for the victim to feel special and want to stay before the negativity starts again. It’s like an ongoing cycle for the relationship. | Evidence/Quotes:  <http://www.articlesbase.com/relationships-articles/psychological-abuse-268551.html> |
| Explanation  Behavioral Effects:  A child that is emotionally abused will often say negative things about themselves, be passive, overly demanding or highly aggressive. The child may also be behind in physical, mental and emotional development. A lot of survivors may have low self-worth, an inability to trust others and bad habit disorders. Many survivors of emotional abuse have often said it was worse than any other type of abuse and the effects last so much longer. | Evidence/Quotes:  <http://www.kalimunro.com/article_emotional_abuse.html>  <http://www.helpguide.org/mental/child_abuse_physical_emotional_sexual_neglect.htm> |
| Explanation  Common conditions in which emotional abuse is present:  Physical abuse can happen in any home setting but is more common in other settings such as families who are struggling with substance abuse, separation, mental health issues or intellectual disability. | Evidence /Quotes: |

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| Topic 5:  Effects of verbal abuse | |
| Explanation  What is verbal abuse:  Verbal abuse can be more than just negative comments. It can include sarcasm, eye rolling, laughing, teasing and the tone of the abusers voice. Victims of abuse often become “brainwashed” and no longer think for themselves because they believe everything the abuser tells them. The abuser soon has the ability to control the victim’s life, even as far as secluding them from family and friends. | Evidence/Quotes:  <http://www.ehow.com/how-does_4910363_effects-verbal-abuse.html> |
| Explanation  Behavioral/Emotional effects:  Survivors of verbal abuse often are left with behaviors that can’t be treated throughout their life. Symptoms of verbal abuse include low self-esteem, excessive moodiness, aggressiveness, overacting, shyness or being withdrawn. Victims are often left with emotional effects such as lacking in confidence and faith and they may feel undeserving or unlovable | Evidence/Quotes:  <http://www.ehow.com/how-does_4910363_effects-verbal-abuse.html> |
| Explanation  Physical effects:  Some of the first physical symptoms of abuse that are noticed in younger children are younger physical development and speech problems. As the child gets older they may try to harm themselves. Younger children often bite themselves and older children may resolve to more serious tactics such as cutting or burning themselves. | Evidence /Quotes:  <http://www.ehow.com/how-does_4910363_effects-verbal-abuse.html> |